

CHICANO ARTISTS SPONSOR COMMUNITY PROJECT

by Henry Marquez

Local Chicano artists as well as Watsonville community people have recently submitted a \$79,796.00 proposal to Governor Brown. The Museum Without Walls is sponsoring the proposal for a Community Arts Project called Academia Del Arte.

The Museum Without Walls is a non-profit Educational Corporation of the state of California.

Its function is to encourage community awareness of the environment through the development of art. However, its main emphasis is on the planning of our nation's bicentennial celebrations. The Museum Without Walls is managed by a fifteen-member Board of Trustees, whose financial controls have been established by the Santa Cruz County Auditors Offices.

The Academia Del Arte, an organization of Chicano artists and craftsmen, was founded by Enrique Ante. Its functions are to create jobs that have a high impact on cultural arts in the Santa Cruz County and also to establish an institution from which Spanish-speaking artists can practice their crafts, as well

as disseminate and exchange ideas. The Academia also hopes to function in providing a source of relaxation, recreation and education through art and other programs. It would also provide an understanding of the Mexican

culture, and bring together people of many social and economic backgrounds, both Anglo and Mexican-American.

Through a series of meetings held during a period of several months, the program's objectives and activities representative of Chicano artists in the County were developed. On April 19, of this year, at a meeting of the Congress of Regional Artists, the Academia Del Arte received unanimous support and endorsement. The MWOW, lacking minority representation, saw Chicano representation in the new project as vital, thus funding them \$1,000 for the planning of the project.

After completing a six month feasibility of research, a 52 page proposal was compiled by Enrique Ante. The proposal states that "It is for the



development of new occupations for Mexican-American workers that this proposal is intended." The proposal will hope to provide 10 to 15 full-time jobs for unemployed Chicanos in new occupations related to the arts. Funding for the program will also make available nine CETA positions under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. The program hopes to serve the area known as the "Pajaro Valley Area," encompassing Watsonville and Freedom as well as the unincorporated and rural areas of the Santa Cruz County.

Why is \$79,796 needed for the program? Enrique Ante stated that "Employees are needed to run the Academia like a business; the artists could not manage the program themselves. The proposal includes Medical insurance as well as office space

and supplies." Mr. Ante also stated, "I feel that UCSC's art department structure is excellent and I hope that art students will be willing to assist the Academia Del Arte project if it is funded." The proposal has been submitted under the Governor's 4 percent Discretionary Allocation, from the State Manpower Planning Office in Sacramento.

The Academia Del Arte project needs letters of support from students. Interested people can write to the following persons:

Governor State of California,
State Manpower Planning Office
800 Capitol Mall, MIC 77,
Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

Also, to the following legislators:
Murphy 28th District, Talcott
16th, and Grunsky 17th, at the
same address. State Capitol,
Sacramento, Calif. 95814.